

VALOR

Get clinical and administrative pharmacy experience early with the Columbia VA's internship program for pharmacy students



The Department of Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency

- The VALOR program -



Prerequisites:

- 1) Completion of P2 year with a ≥ 3.0 GPA in core pharmacy curriculum by May 2015*
- 2) Must be a U.S. Citizen
- 3) Must be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours

Information:

Experience multiple aspects of pharmacy including clinical practice, informatics, medication safety and administration. Clinical environments include primary care and internal medicine. This internship opportunity will allow you to develop important skills that you can utilize for the rest of your pharmaceutical career.

*If applying prior to completion of P2 year, a second copy of official transcripts will be needed to ensure candidates have met the grade requirements. Preference will be given to applicants entering P4 year.

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See other side for additional details

VA VALOR Program

The VALOR program is a program designed to immerse pharmacy students in a clinical environment at the VA center where they can apply the information they have already been taught, as well as further develop their clinical skills. The program begins in May and will be over a summer or during the year, depending on a students' class year (P3-summer; P4-academic year). A minimum of 400 hours at the VA facility must be completed within that time frame. Scheduling is somewhat flexible so that students' university requirements are completed as required. This experience aims to provide students with experience that cannot be achieved through positions in other areas of pharmacy practice. Participants will be evaluated on their learning experiences and will benefit from feedback on their performance. Experiences are project based and involve each of the following areas.

1) Informatics

Technology is important at the VA. The state-of-the-art technology and computerized charting system within the VA is one of the main reasons why individuals seek VA employment. The Columbia VA medical center also uses ScripPto technology to help with filling outpatient prescriptions and the Pyxis unit dose storage system within the inpatient setting. The VALOR participant will be exposed to all of these various technologies as well as the CPRS drug file.

2) Administrative

Policies and procedures are essential in any pharmacy setting and here at the Columbia VA medical center is no different. With over 90 pharmacy employees, it is crucial to have established policies in place. This area will allow the VALOR participant to engage in the creation of new practices and to ensure policies are being met every day.

3) Clinical

With over 75,000 outpatients serviced by the hospital, the need for clinical services at the Columbia VA continues to grow. The need for medication reconciliation is also continuing to grow. As new medications and medication devices become more common, physician, nursing, and patient education on proper dosing and use is essential. The VALOR participants will also work with clinical staff to develop new methods for patient care. The VA clinics cover several different areas of care that the participant may have an opportunity to experience.

a) Ambulatory Medicine

There are three primary care clinics at the facility and seven surrounding community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), with each clinic employing 1-3 clinical pharmacists and multiple specialty care clinics. Pharmacists manage patients in areas such as hypertension, lipids, diabetes, smoking cessation, pain management and anticoagulation.

b) Inpatient Medicine

There are five clinical pharmacy specialists supporting the internal medicine and critical care teams. The pharmacists perform activities relating to antibiotic use, renal medication dosing, and pharmacokinetics. Medication reconciliation and patient discharge counseling is also conducted in this area. Activities in this setting include TPN monitoring, insulin dosing, antibiotic use and dosing, pharmacokinetics, and anticoagulation management.

Eligibility:

Students must have completed at least their 2nd professional year of pharmacy school by the start of the internship. Preference will be given to P4 pharmacy students. Students should have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the pharmacy curriculum. Pharmacy VALOR participants must complete 400 hours. The student must be a US citizen.

To apply:

Please send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, official copy of university transcripts, two letters of recommendation and a letter from the Dean or Assistant Dean nominating you and indicating completion (or upcoming completion) of P2 year, full time enrollment status and anticipated graduation date. All application materials are due via e-mail or mail by midnight on 3/6/2015. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted with official transcript required at the interview.

Application Address:

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Contact Information for Questions:

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